

July 19, 2004

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COUNCIL CUTS

The following ordinances or resolutions will receive second reading or are emergency or tabled legislation to be considered at tonight's meeting at 5 p.m., Room 229 City Hall. If enacted by Council:

PROTECTING THE BIG DARBY WATERSHED - Council and the Mayor continue their commitment to protect the Big Darby Watershed with two actions. The first extends the current moratorium on new Columbus sewer and water lines into the area an additional year, at least until year-end 2005, with Ordinance 1397-04, sponsored by Council President Habash and Council member Thomas.

Resolution 173X expresses the administration and Council's support for a comprehensive, intergovernmental planning accord between all the Franklin County political jurisdictions that border the watershed, pursuant to a joint call by President Habash and Mayor Coleman. The intergovernmental planning process starts July 21 (see upcoming meeting notice below).

CREATING JOBS - Council action fosters job growth under a tax incentive agreement with Unico Alloys and Metals, that offers a 60%, 6-year abatement, provided the firm invests \$6.2 million, retains 26 jobs and creates 14 new ones at the Joyce Avenue site. Council member O'Shaughnessy sponsors Ordinance 1356-04.

HELPING SCHOOL DISTRICTS - Local school districts gain nearly \$1.7 million, representing 50% of new City income taxes generated by certain City tax abated projects. The Columbus City School District receives the largest share at nearly \$1.1 million with Ordinance 1327-04, sponsored by Council member O'Shaughnessy.

PROTECTING CITIZEN SAFETY - Homeland security is the focus of Ordinance 1341-04, sponsored by Council member Mentel. It allocates nearly \$1.5 million in federal grant funds to help local safety forces respond in potential terrorist emergencies. Funds pay for a Hazmat vehicle for the Division of Fire, to replace a portion of the City's 800-megahertz system, and for a high-tech on-scene identification system for Police.

Council also moves to ensure top quality Firefighter response with Ordinance 1195-04, sponsored by Council member Mentel. It allocates nearly \$4.3 million in City bond funds to replace Fire Station 18 on Cleveland Avenue. The current station is 78 years old.

ENHANCING RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES - Construction of two long-desired recreation capital projects moves forward with Ordinances 1241-04 and 1242-04, sponsored by Council member Boyce. Construction of the new northside community recreation center on Lazelle and the replacement center downtown at Dodge Park are expected to commence in August, with expected completion dates in spring 2006 and fall 2005, respectively. \$11 million in City bond funds finance the projects.

INVESTING IN CLINTONVILLE - Clintonville residents and area business owners will soon see a new look on High Street thanks to Ordinance 1092-04, sponsored by Council member O'Shaughnessy and Council President Habash. In a public/private partnership the City and High Street property owners invest nearly \$4.4 million for streetscape improvements, including curbs, sidewalks, resurfacing, street trees, lane markings, brick pavers, street lighting, storm sewer work, and more from Acadia Avenue to Torrence Road. The project includes a \$936,000 assessment component to supplement City bond funds.

ENHANCING DOWNTOWN - With agreement to use value-engineering principles to realize cost savings and diminish or eliminate project change orders, design of the proposed Main Street Bridge moves forward as Council engages the newly created RiverSouth Authority to fund \$3 million of project costs with Ordinance, 1429-04 sponsored by Council member O'Shaughnessy. Construction of the bridge should commence in 2006. Related Ordinance 1412-04 amends the design contract.

FIGHTING CRACK HOUSES - Landowners who do not take care of abandoned housing will soon find it more difficult to leave properties neglected under Ordinances 946-04 and 947-04, sponsored by Council member Thomas. Changes are made to Title 47 of the City Code, creating greater flexibility for the City to deal with such properties before they become crack houses.

Council member Mentel will recognize Columbus Police Officer Sterling Trent and several firefighters from Station 1 for outstanding services.

Upcoming Hearings or Meetings of Note:

Council President Habash and Mayor Coleman: Big Darby Watershed Planning - July 21 at 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Big Run Shelter House, 4205 Clime Road.

*Council member Charleta Tavares - Health, Housing and Human Services Committee: Wednesday, July 21 at 5:30 in Council Chambers.
([map <http://www.columbuscitycouncil.org/howdoi/location.htm>](http://www.columbuscitycouncil.org/howdoi/location.htm)). A picture ID is needed to enter City Hall.*

Council member Maryellen O'Shaughnessy - Development Committee: Thursday, July 22 at 5:30 in Chambers on proposed amendments to the City's Architectural Review Commission Guidelines.

Note: Only 30-day legislation and first readings of emergency legislation will be considered at next Monday's Council meeting, July 26th.